

WE CLAIM

1. A camera-recorder apparatus comprising:

(i) an image capture device operable to capture a plurality of video images;

5 (ii) a storage medium by which said video images are stored for later retrieval;

(iii) a feature extraction unit operable to derive image property data from said image content of at least one of said video images substantially in real time at said capture of said video images, said image property data being associated with respective images or groups of images; and

10 (iv) a data path by which said camera-recorder apparatus is operable to transfer said derived image property data to an external data processing apparatus.

2. Apparatus according to claim 1, in which:

15 (i) said camera-recorder apparatus comprises means for capturing an audio signal associated with said video images; and
(ii) said feature extraction unit is operable to derive audio property data for portions of said audio signal associated with at least one of said video images.

20 3. Apparatus according to claim 1, in which said image property data is generated for every video image.

4. Apparatus according to claim 1, comprising a proxy generator operable to compress said video images to produce a lower bit-rate copy of said respective images.

25 5. Apparatus according to claim 1 in which said data path comprises a removable storage medium for storing said image property data.

30 6. Apparatus according to claim 1, in which said data path comprises a wireless network connection device and an antenna which are operable to provide a wireless link to said external data processing apparatus.

7. Apparatus according to claim 1, in which said image property data comprises at least one class of data selected from:

- (i) colour distribution data;
- (ii) face recognition data; and
- 5 (iii) image activity data.

8. A method of image acquisition at a camera-recorder apparatus, said method comprising the following steps by the camera-recorder apparatus:

- (i) capturing a plurality of video images;
- 10 (ii) storing said video images for later retrieval;
- (iii) deriving image property data from said image content of at least one of said video images substantially in real time at said capture of said video images, said image property data being associated with respective images or groups of images; and
- (iv) transferring, via a data path, said derived image property data to an
15 external data processing apparatus.

9. Computer software having program code for carrying out a method according to claim 8.

20 10. A data providing medium by which computer software according to claim 9 is provided.

11. A medium according to claim 10, said medium being a transmission medium.

25 12. A medium according to claim 10, said medium being a storage medium.